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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director O/NE

DATE: 2 April 1951

FROM : [redacted] 25X1

SUBJECT: Suggestion for an NIE supplementing NIE-26

1. I should like to suggest that consideration be given to the production of an NIE on the major problems in each of the Near Eastern countries affecting US-UK efforts to strengthen the Western power position in the area.

2. NIE-26 (Key Problems Affecting US-UK Efforts to Strengthen the Near East) concluded inter alia that: (a) little can be done in the short-term to increase the capabilities of the Near Eastern countries to defend themselves against Soviet aggression; and (b) nothing can be done on a regional basis. It is evident, therefore, that in the short-term the defensibility of the area can be increased only through an expansion of US and/or UK power in the area and that this expansion will depend primarily on the conclusion by the US and the UK of bilateral agreements with specific Near Eastern countries. By discussing the problems facing US and UK efforts in each country, the policy makers and planners of strategy will get a much clearer idea of where such efforts could most effectively be employed. It would presumably be of considerable value for them to know, for instance, that the US could get almost anything it wanted in the way of base and transit rights in Turkey and Saudi Arabia at a relatively low cost, but that Iran and Syria would probably not grant such rights on any terms. They would probably also be interested in knowing what the US could do to buttress the British position in Egypt and Iraq. Although this estimate would not answer these questions directly, it might indicate where US efforts might most usefully be concentrated and what the nature of these efforts would be.

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